

12. (Amended) The cap and vessel of claim 1 wherein the threaded cap and threaded vessel are injection molded using polypropylene.

In the Specification:

On Page 5, beginning at line 20, please substitute the newly rewritten paragraph as follows:

Base 102 serves as a support for the remaining components of the mixing and pouring apparatus 100. Base 102 includes on one embodiment guide pin openings 132 capable of receiving a supplemental vessel and cap cradle for use in a pouring operation to be described later. Locking arm support 104 includes openings for receiving a support or supports for the locking arm 106 at its ends 145 and 147. Shaft 134 of locking arm support 104 is fixedly connected to drive mechanism 108 and locking arm 106 for effecting motion of locking arm 106 in response to operation of the drive mechanism 108.

On Page 8, beginning at line 25, please substitute the newly rewritten paragraph as follows:

Motor 130 and drive mechanism 108 in one embodiment have a registration mechanism to ensure that the locking arm begins its operational processes from the same position each time the apparatus 100 is started. Such registration mechanism is shown in greater detail in Figs. 2, 6, and 7. A registration disk 137 is fixedly attached to shaft 134, so that registration disk 137 will rotate when shaft 134 rotates as described above. Registration disk 137 has therein along its circumference a registration slot 139 extending inward from the outer edge toward shaft 134. In the position shown in Fig. 6, the registration slot is aligned with optocoupler 138 when the locking arm 106 is substantially vertical with respect to the plane 131 of the base 102 of apparatus 100. The registration mechanism is connected to the motor 130 by suitable wiring 136.

On page 19, beginning at line 14, please substitute the newly rewritten paragraph as follows:

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In the embodiment shown in Fig. 15, each of the holes 140 further have recesses 1524 on opposing sides into which the opposing blades 1520 on the cap rotator 1516 slide to pick up the cap 114 in order to move it out of the locking pocket 142. The process is completed in reverse when it is desired to remove the cap 114. In other words, the cap 114 is rotated 180 degrees in the reverse direction and returned to the locking pocket 142 in the same position it began. The screwing and unscrewing of the cap 114 and placement in the locking pocket 142 can also be completed manually. In one embodiment, bar codes are used to identify the vessel 112 and cap 114 so that the same cap 114 is always used with the same vessel 112. This helps to ensure that there is no contamination or cross-contamination, although in most embodiments all of the vessels 112 and caps 114 are made with the same die so that the caps and vessels are interchangeable.

REMARKS

In this response, claims 1-9 and 12 have been amended, and claims 9-10 have been canceled. Claims 1-9, 12, and 18-22 therefore remain for consideration in this application.

In the Office Action, the Examiner objected to the drawings *as failing to comply with 37 CFR 1.84(p)(5) because they contained the following reference sign(s) not mentioned in the description: 136*. Description has been added to the specification for reference numeral 136, the wiring that connects the registration mechanism to the motor. This element appeared in the original figures. No new matter has been added.

The Examiner also objected to the drawings *as failing to comply with 37 CFR 1.84(p)(4) because reference character "144 and 146" has been used to designate both ends and locking ports and locking opening*. The ends have been assigned numbers 145 and 147 respectively, and red line drawings indicating the proposed change are submitted herewith for approval.